

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

---

University Honors Program Newsletters

University Honors Program

---

10-2015

## University Honors Program Newsletter

University Honors Program, Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-newsletters>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

University Honors Program, Georgia Southern University, "University Honors Program Newsletter" (2015).  
*University Honors Program Newsletters*. 7.  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-newsletters/7>

This newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Honors Program at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Honors Program Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).



## Honors Students Find Success in Mock Mediation Competitions



GSU's Mock Mediation Team shows off their numerous awards

Georgia Southern's Mock Mediation Club is one of the largest and most successful mediation teams in the United States. Thanks to the efforts of its thirty-five members, it has brought home endless accolades from both regional and national tournaments. Only two years ago, however, it was not even recognized as a

student organization.

In 2013, honors student Dylan John (construction management '16) convinced two friends to compete in the regional mock mediation tournament, not expecting to win seven awards and move on to nationals. But without university funding or support, attending nationals seemed like a faraway dream.

"During a presentation at World Congress, we had to admit that we weren't going to be able to go to nationals, due to funding," said John, "but then one of the judges offered us a generous donation and said, 'if I give you this, will you go?'"

Click [here](#) to read more!

---

## Researching Writing and Writing Research: Aleyna Rentz Publishes in *Composition Studies*



Aleyna Rentz at work in Eidson House

When Aleyna Rentz (English/writing and linguistics '17) first signed up for Dr. Jessica Nastal-Dema's writing studies class, she had no idea it would lead to her first publication in an academic journal. Along with Dr. Nastal-Dema and fellow writing and linguistics major Jayne McGaughey, Rentz co-wrote "The Evolving Identity of an Undergraduate Major in Writing and Linguistics," which will appear in the fall 2015

edition of Composition Studies, the oldest independent periodical in its field.

The idea for the article began with a class discussion of college writing programs and how they should operate in order to best prepare students for careers or graduate programs in writing. During this discussion, Rentz realized just how exceptional Georgia Southern's own writing department is.

"Unlike Georgia Southern, most colleges don't offer majors in writing," said Rentz. "They relegate it to a minor or concentration, rather than treating it like a legitimate field of study."

Click [here](#) to read more!



The Georgia Southern University Honors Program is designed to foster the development of a critical sense of inquiry, a spirit of creativity, a global perspective and an ethic of civic responsibility. With your investment, the University Honors Program will continue to enrich the lives of students at Georgia Southern University.

---

**Alumni Update: Thomas Eisenhart  
Delivers Talk to Chemistry Department**



Thomas Eisenhart visits with Dr. Engel during his return to campus

Life has been busy for 2010 Honors alum Thomas Eisenhart since his graduation five years ago. After spending his first post-graduate year in Belfast, Northern Ireland to study under the Rotary Foundation Ambassador Scholarship, Eisenhart returned to America to complete his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Despite the demands of graduate school, Eisenhart found time to pay his alma mater a visit on October 16, when he presented his research to the chemistry department. His talk was titled “Spectroscopic Monitoring of Proton-Coupled Electron Transfer Reactions,” which documented his work over the past four years to develop new methods to better monitor a class of reactions, proton-coupled electron transfer (PCET), which play an important role in developing new energy technologies.

Click [here](#) to read more!

---

## Alumni Update: Dr. Darin Van Tassell Brings Minor League Soccer to Statesboro



Darin Van Tassell (center) with Tormenta FC co-owner Jeremy Aven (right) and general manager Ben Freakley (left) with the name and logo of Statesboro's new minor league soccer team.

Dr. Darin Van Tassell, a Bell Honors Program Alumnus (political science '89) and current University Honors Program faculty member in political science and international studies, is bringing a minor league soccer team to Statesboro. The South Georgia Tormenta FC will begin play next summer in the Premier Development League (PDL). It is the first PDL team to be located in Georgia, and the team will host home games in the soccer stadium on campus. See more at: <http://www.tormentafc.com/>

---

Honors Alumni are encouraged to update their information here!

---

**Save the Date: Retirement Reception**



Linda Rushing has been the administrative assistant for the University Honors Program since 2001, and a Georgia Southern employee since 1984. Come help us celebrate her retirement on Friday, December 4, from 2:00-4:00 at the Eidson House!

---



Dr. Howard Keeley taught students how to make pizza dough from scratch in this month's Cooking with the Profs. Check our [Facebook page](#) for more pictures and updates from the Honors LLC!

---

---

To learn more about Honors at Georgia Southern, how to support honors activities, or become involved in honors alumni events, contact Honors Director Steven Engel at [sengel@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:sengel@georgiasouthern.edu)



Website



Facebook



Twitter



YouTube

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN**  
UNIVERSITY

Copyright © 2015 University Honors Program, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Newsletter Creators:



**Aleyna Rentz**

**Editor-in-Chief**

**Maria Amiel**

Design Editor-in Chief

Elise Rustine

Photography/ Design